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Subject: Weekly Briefing: Trump nominates hyper-partisan conservative activist to NC federal court vacancy

NC POLICY WATCH

Stories & voices
that **matter.**

Weekly Briefing:

Trump nominates hyper-partisan conservative activist to NC federal court vacancy Why this is not “business as usual” and should not be condoned

By [Rob Schofield](#)

Sometimes all one can do is stand and marvel in slack-jawed wonder at the breathtaking brazenness, hypocrisy and double standards that Donald Trump and his allies in the modern conservative movement are willing to employ and embrace. Six months into this dark new era, it's truly gotten to the point at which it's hard to think of any political act under the sun that conservatives would be unwilling to engage in in order to pursue and accomplish their goal of radically overhauling the American social contract.

The ultimate manifestation of this appalling new reality is, of course, Trump's symbiotic relationship with one of the globe's most powerful and immoral organized crime bosses, Vladimir Putin, but there are dozens of other – if more mundane – examples.

Here in North Carolina, the steady decline in any pretense by legislative leaders of adhering to basic rules of process and open government stands out. So too does the startling willingness of self-described “Christian” conservatives to cozy up to Trump and his serial mendacity.

The assault on the courts

If one is looking for a specific realm of public policy in which this kind of behavior has been most blatantly apparent in recent years, however, it would be hard to top the ongoing conservative effort to seize control of the judiciary. As NC Policy Watch reporter Melissa Boughton has detailed on multiple occasions, the Right's relentless effort to capture control of the courts in North Carolina has taken many shameless forms in recent months – from the aborted (at least temporarily) effort to pack the state Supreme Court, to the new law shrinking the Court of Appeals in order to deny Governor Cooper the right to appoint new judges, to the ongoing effort to gerrymander judicial districts to favor Republicans.

Of course, North Carolina conservatives didn't invent this kind of behavior. As was [discussed at some length in this space a couple of months back](#), capturing the courts is a longstanding national right-wing priority that appears on the verge of a major breakthrough. [[Read more...](#)]

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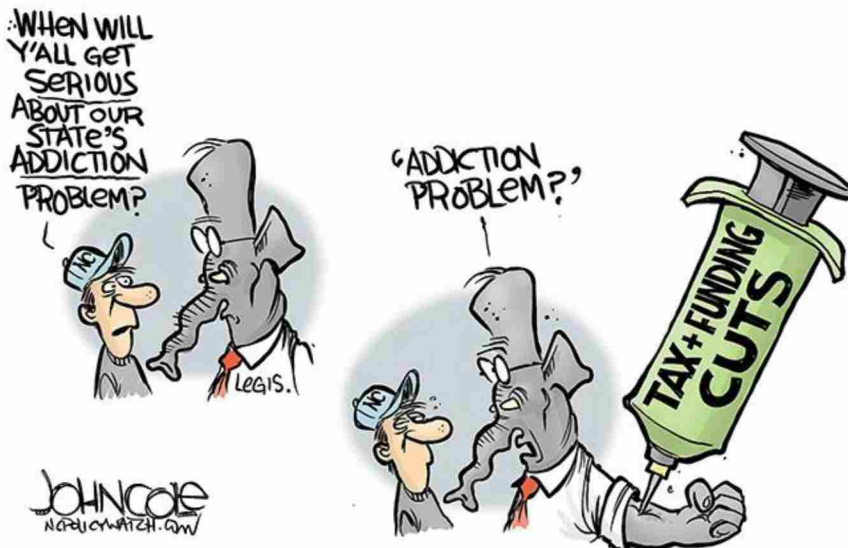
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By John Cole



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